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Interruption of Sermon by Rival Preacher.—In the case of Woodall v. State, 62 Southeastern Reporter, 485, it appeared that defendant, a negro preacher, had been indicted for the disturbance of a congregation assembled for divine worship. The evidence showed that defendant, to keep the ears of his flock unsullied by doubtful doctrines of a rival minister, arose, interrupted, and himself began an harangue. No force or violence was indulged in. The Court of Appeals of Georgia held that as the purpose of defendant was to carry on divine worship, and not to prevent it, he was not guilty. It remarked also that it is beyond the power of the ourts to settle by criminal prosecutions the respective rights of contesting claimants to a benefice, even in a negro church.

Can Secret Societies Describe Act Violating a Statute?—A Montana statute provides that any person who shall wear or use the insignia or ceremonials of any society, order, or organization of 10 years standing in the state, unless entitled to use or wear the same under the constitution or regulations of such organization, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In State v. Holland, 96 Pacific Reporter, 719, appellant contended that this law was unconstitutional as it enabled the organization to fix the offense, thus delegating to it the exercise of powers rightly belonging to the Legislature. Thus a citizen was unable to ascertain from the statute what he was prohibited to do, but had to gain such information from the regulations of a secret society which were closed to him. To avoid the penalty of the statute he had to keep himself posted as to the changes in such societies. The Supreme Court of Montana held that as the Legislature declared the prohibition and provided the penalty for its violation, but left it to the societies to supply the description of the violated ritual, the statute was unconstitutional.

Servant Unable to Comprehend English Is Incompetent.—Plaintiff was engaged as feeder of a machine for making pasteboard which two men were required to operate. The assistant of plaintiff was called the "catcher," whose duty it was to turn off and on the power in starting or stopping. While plaintiff was cleaning this machine his fingers became caught, and he called out to the catcher to shut off the power. Owing to his inability to comprehend English, the catcher turned on the power. The fingers of plaintiff were amputated. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in Beers v. Isaac Prouty & Co., 85 Northeastern Reporter, 864, held that his inability to understand English rendered the catcher incompetent, and that the employer was liable to plaintiff for the injury.